



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE



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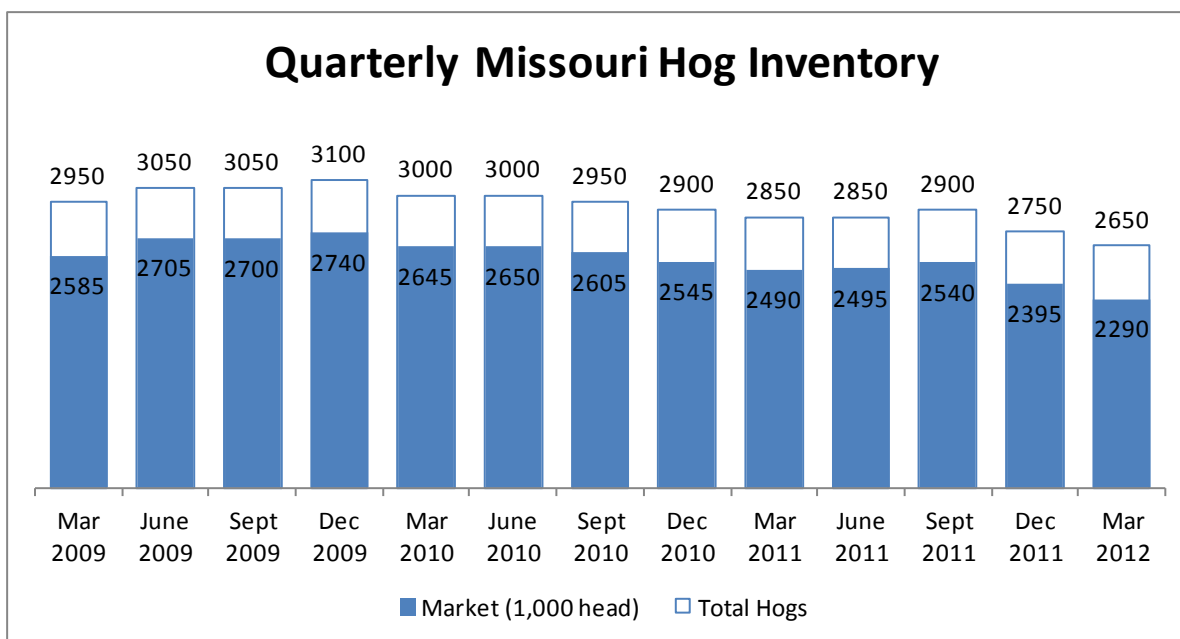
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Missouri Hog and Pig Inventory up from December

(COLUMBIA, Mo.) - The March 1, 2012 inventory of **Missouri hogs and pigs** is estimated at 2.65 million head according to the USDA's Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service. "Missouri hog inventory continued its downward trend this quarter as corn prices remained high", said Robert Garino, Acting Director. "The number of total hogs and market hogs in the state are currently at the lowest level since 1992." Sows farrowed is up 8.6% from last year, and there is increasing trend in the last three quarters." **Breeding hogs** are estimated at 360,000 head, unchanged from last year. **Market hogs** are estimated at 2.29 million head, down 8.0 percent from last year.



Missouri hog producers **intend to farrow** 185,000 sows during March-May, unchanged from the number of heads that were actually farrowed during the same period a year earlier. During June-August, hog producers expect to farrow 190,000 sows, also unchanged from the actual farrowings during the same period a year earlier.

The **December-February pig crop** is estimated at 1.976 million head, up 11.8 percent from the same period last year, and also up 1.2 percent from last quarter's total estimated **pig crop**. **Farrowings**, at 190,000 sows, is up 15,000 sows from last year. **Pigs saved per litter** is at 10.4, up 3.0 percent from the same quarter last year.

Missouri March Inventory 2010-2012
Sows Farrowing, Pig Crop, Inventory, and Pigs per Litter

	2010	2011	2012	Percent of Previous Year
Hogs & pigs kept for breeding	355,000	360,000	360,000	100
Hogs & pigs for market	2,645,000	2,490,000	2,290,000	92
<i>Under 50 pounds</i>	<i>1,180,000</i>	<i>1,080,000</i>	<i>1,000,000</i>	<i>93</i>
<i>50-119 pounds</i>	<i>590,000</i>	<i>580,000</i>	<i>530,000</i>	<i>91</i>
<i>120-179 pounds</i>	<i>465,000</i>	<i>410,000</i>	<i>370,000</i>	<i>90</i>
<i>180 pounds and over</i>	<i>410,000</i>	<i>420,000</i>	<i>390,000</i>	<i>93</i>
Hogs and pigs total	3,000,000	2,850,000	2,650,000	93
Pig crop *	1,853,000	1,768,000	1,976,000	112
Pigs per litter	9.5	10.1	10.4	103

United States Hog Inventory up 2 Percent

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2012 was 64.9 million head. This was up 2 percent from March 1, 2011, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2011.

Breeding inventory, at 5.82 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 59.1 million head, was up 2 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2011-February 2012 pig crop, at 28.7 million head, was up 3 percent from 2011. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.88 million head, up 1 percent from 2011. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 50 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high 9.97 for the December-February period, compared to 9.80 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.30 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.00 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

United States hog producers intend to have 2.89 million sows farrow during the March-May 2012 quarter, down 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2011, and down 1 percent from 2010. Intended farrowings for June-August 2012, at 2.88 million sows, are down 2 percent from 2011, and down 2 percent from 2010.

The total number of **hogs under contract** owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 47 percent of the total United States hog inventory, up from 46 percent last year.

A random sample of roughly 8,000 United States producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all hog and pig producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large operations were sampled more heavily than small operations. During the first half of March 2012, data were collected from about 6,300 operations, 79 percent of the total sample. The data collected were received by electronic data reporting (EDR), mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Regardless of when operations responded, they were asked to report inventories as of March 1, 2012.